Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7429

SECRETTANANARIVE 1226

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NASA MA US

SUBJEC: NASA STATION CLOSURE: ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

REF: TANANARIVE 1224

1. IN CONSIDERING WHAT PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA MIGHT DO AT THIS

POINT AND US RESPONSE IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO HAVE TOP-OF-THE-EAD REVIEW WHAT HE HAS DONE OR PROBABLY SUPPORTED IN PAST:

A. CLOSED MALAGASY IORTS TO USN AND ALL OTHER NAVAL SHIP

VISITS.

- B. EXPELLED ISRAELI AMBASSADOR ON 14 DAYS NOTICE AND PERMITED PETTY HARASSMENT.
- C. EXPELLED US DEFENSE ATTACHE PLANE.
- D. ATTACKED US DIRECTLY IN UNGA.
- E. BARRED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH BY FOREIGNERS.
- F. EXPRESSED DISPLEASURE PRIVATELY OVER US MARINE SECURITY GUARD DETACHMENT'S PRESENCE AT EMBASSY.
- G. PROVIDED 200 TROOPS TO "PROTECT" NASA AND ZERO PROTECTION SECRET

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FOR EMBASSS.

H. RECENTLY SAID THAT SOME INSURANCE COMPANIES WHICH WERE RECENTLY NATIONALIZED "DID NOT DESERVE COMPENSATION."

I. REJECTION

OF US PL-480 TITLE ONE ASSISTANCE.

- 2. IN ADDITION, CANARD THAT EMBASSY LINKED TO ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT RATSIMANDRAVA CONTINUES TO CIRCULATE. THERE ARE MANY OTHER NASTY RUMORS -- "EMBASSY RUMOR CONTROL" IS FULLY OCCUPIED.
- 3. BASIS OF FONMIN CONCERN
 NOTED REFTEL IN MY VIEW IS THAT
 HE DOUBTS
 RATSIRAKA'S REACTION
 WILL BE TEMPERATE AND THAT
 RATSIRAKA WILL NOT PERMIT US TO REENTER STATION OR RECOVER NASA
 EQUIPMENT. RATSIRAKA'S TRACK RECORD AS PARTIALLY RECORDED
 ADOVE DOES NOT GIVE ME MUCH CONFIDENCE EITHER.
- 4. WHILE I AM NOT SUGGESTING THAT IF RATSIRAKA'S REACTION IS PETULANT OURS SHOULD BE ALSO, IT IS CLEAR THAT US INTERESTS IN MADAGASCAR AVE DECLINED SHARPLY OVER PAST TWO YEARS. TO PARA ONE ABOVE WE CAN ADD THE RECENT DEPARTURE OF CHEVRON AND PARKER DRILLING COMPANY AFTER THREE YEARS OF FRUITLESS OIL EXPLORATIONJN AND THE PROBABLE DEPARTURE OF THE LEADING FRENCH-AMERICAN IMPORTER OF US EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY AFTER THEY GET THEIR MONEY OUT. IN ADDITION, DESPIE FAVORABLE OFFERS, THERE HAS BEEN NO NEW PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN MADAGASCAR FOR PAST THREE YEARS.
- 5. AMERICAN MISSIONARY COMMUNITY HERE IS ALSO CONCERNED BY DEVELOPMENTS ESPECIALLY SINCE PRESS HEADLINES SAID "AMERICANS GIVEN UNTIL MONDAY." LEADINR AMERICAN MISSIONARY HERE HAS APPOINTMENT WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR THIS AFTERNOON ON OTHER SUBJECT, BUT MAY GET READING ON FUTURE OF AMERICAN MISSIONARIES

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